

community. Lillie E. Perkins left an indelible mark, not only on the community she called home but on the hearts of the thousands whose lives she touched. It is my honor to rise today to pay tribute to the life of Lillie E. Perkins and extend my deepest condolences to her daughters, Tiara and Sharon, as well as her extended network of family, friends, and colleagues. As much as she will be missed, it is heartening to know that the legacy of service and compassion she leaves will continue to inspire generations to come.

RECOGNIZING MR. ZACK BUTLER
AS THE SANTA ROSA COUNTY
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 28, 2022

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Zack Butler as the Santa Rosa County Teacher of the Year. For several years, Mr. Butler has served Santa Rosa County schools with talent, passion, and an unwavering commitment to good education.

In Northwest Florida, we are fortunate to have some of the best teachers in the Nation. It is recognized that the teaching profession is one of the most difficult yet rewarding professions in existence. Mr. Butler has performed his teaching duties exceptionally, while also going above and beyond to be an asset to his school district.

Mr. Butler's gifts and talents are used for far more than simply educating his students. Mr. Butler goes above and beyond to truly teach life lessons as well as traditional education, to students who have more difficulty learning than others; he tailors his lessons and educational style to fit each individual child. I commend him for his steadfast willingness to serve those that matter most—the students and youth of our Nation.

For all of his admirable contributions to our community, I am truly proud to have Mr. Butler as a constituent in Florida's First Congressional District.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Mr. Zack Butler for his many accomplishments, and his commitment to excellence, professionalism, innovation, and collaboration in the Santa Rosa County School District. I thank him for his service and wish him all the best for his continued success.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
BATTALION CHIEF STEVE WORDEN

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 28, 2022

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Battalion Chief Steve Worden of the Dearborn Fire Department on the occasion of his retirement. His honorable years of service to our community is worthy of commendation.

Battalion Chief Worden began his career at the Dearborn Fire Department in April 1997, beginning as a Firefighter 1. In 2002, he was

promoted to Firefighter 2 and then to the role of Fire Engineer in 2006. Due to his excellence in service, he was named Lieutenant in 2006 and then Captain in 2012. He was promoted to his current role as Battalion Chief in May 2019. Known for his selflessness, he was named Firefighter of the Year by the Service Optimist Club in 2012, Department Firefighter of the Year in 2012, and Firefighter of The Year by the Michigan American Legion in 2014. He is also the recipient of numerous awards, including the Gino Polidori Community Service Award and the John D. Dingell Medal of Freedom Memorial Commendation.

An active member of the Dearborn Community, Battalion Chief Worden has spent countless hours leading the Dearborn Firefighters Burn Drive that supports burned and sick children throughout Southeast Michigan. He was named Chairman of the organization in 2006 and since then has helped raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for burn centers and other local groups. As a result of his hard work, families have gotten medical equipment, food, and clothing that they truly need. He continues to reside here in Southeast Michigan with his wife and children.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in Battalion Chief Steve Worden for a career of exemplary service to the Dearborn Fire Department. I join with Battalion Chief Worden's family, friends, and colleagues in extending my gratitude to him for his honorable service in protecting our community, and thank him for his role in serving the people of the City of Dearborn for the past three decades.

RECOGNIZING THE BAKERSFIELD
CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 28, 2022

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bakersfield City School District as they celebrate the grand opening of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School.

Bakersfield City School District was established in 1867 with 17 students. Today, it is the largest elementary school district in California and serves over 30,000 students in the Central Valley.

The Bakersfield City School District is a model of educational excellence, equity, and innovation. They've received several awards for their work, most recently the silver award in the 2022 Magna Awards Program. The school district also received the California Exemplary District Award in 2018, 13 Golden Bells awarded by the California School Boards Association, and seven schools in the district received the California Distinguished Schools Award.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School is the 44th school established in the Bakersfield City School District. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School uses a STEAM-focused educational curriculum. Their teaching methods are not only helping students prepare for industries of the future like engineering, technology, math, art, and science, but they are helping children of all backgrounds access new ways of learning. Thanks to the work being done by the teachers and faculty of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Elementary, the children in our communities will be better prepared to tackle the challenges of the future, develop new technologies, and advance our community forward.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Bakersfield City School District and their important work to provide high-quality education in the Central Valley.

RECOGNIZING TAMPA'S LOCAL
TRAILBLAZER, HOWARD A. HARRIS
III, IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 28, 2022

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, this Black History Month, I am proud to celebrate local trailblazers, and those who dedicate their time and talent to lifting up their neighbors. I rise today in immense gratitude of Howard A. Harris III, who after a long career that took him throughout the country, came home to his family to enjoy retirement and serve his community by honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Mr. Harris was born in Tampa and his parents, Howard Harris, Jr. and Ethel, instilled the importance of education. His father, who also served in the U.S. Army and attended Howard University on the GI Bill, was principal of several elementary schools throughout Hillsborough County, and Mr. Harris remembers as a young child sending his father off at the airport gate to Columbia University in New York City to receive his master's degree. Mr. Harris is the grandson of Marion and Booker T. Washington. He is the father of five sons, Dorian, Brian, Michael, Johnathan and Stephen. Mr. Harris graduated from Jesuit High School and went on to receive his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Howard University. He also received his master's degree in business administration from the University of Michigan.

Mr. Harris worked in the defense, aerospace and automotive industries that took him to Los Angeles, Orlando, Washington, D.C. and Detroit. But he always wanted to return to his family and the hometown he loves to make a positive difference, and he returned to Tampa in 2001. In 2021, he retired from IT Management with Hillsborough County government after 17 years. After serving as president of the local chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, Mr. Harris turned his attention to honoring the legacy of one of his lifelong heroes, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. When the opportunity arose to expand Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebrations, Mr. Harris jumped at the chance. For decades, City of Tampa and Hillsborough County employees supported an annual local MLK tribute through a scholarship fund and downtown march. Mr. Harris was one of the founders that established the MLK Foundation to build a family-friendly parade that started in 2015, fund scholarships for deserving students and honor community heroes that uphold the legacy of Dr. King. Today, the MLK Foundation hosts one of the largest MLK parades in the southeastern United States and engages with businesses, community organizations and entertainment—over the past few years, numerous bands from Historically Black Colleges